

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 28, 2005. New claims 9-17 have been added. Thus, claims 1-17 are pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ozawa in view of Kim. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires “the light-blocking section includes one or more pieces, and the light-blocking section is asymmetric with respect to the protruding portion so that a downstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section is located further from an adjacent edge of the protruding portion than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent edge of the protruding portion.” For example and without limitation, Fig. 9 of the instant application illustrates that the light-blocking section 50 is asymmetric with respect to the protruding portion 15 so that a downstream rubbing direction edge (the edge of a light-blocking section at the pointer end of the arrow indicating the rubbing direction) of the light-blocking section 50 is located further from an adjacent edge of the protruding portion 15 than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent edge of the protruding portion. Note that in the Fig. 9 embodiment, the light-blocking section 50 includes first and second different pieces, one being made up of part of the scanning line and the other as part of the storage capacitor electrode section or line.

Ozawa fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined features of claim 1. In Ozawa, the alleged light-blocking section 9 in Fig. 1B is symmetrical with respect to the alleged protrusion. Moreover, since Fig. 1B of Ozawa shows that the light-shield 9 is formed in the

same manner on each side of the alleged protrusion regions, Ozawa cannot possibly disclose or suggest *“that a downstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section is located further from an adjacent edge of the protruding portion than is an upstream rubbing direction edge of the light-blocking section which may or may not extend beyond an adjacent edge of the protruding portion”* as required by amended claim 1. Ozawa is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this respect. Citation to Kim cannot cure the fundamental flaws of Ozawa, as even the alleged combination (which would be incorrect in any event) fails to meet the invention of claim 1.

Claim 9 requires that the light-blocking section shades at least a defective orientation domain formed in an area in the liquid crystal layer, the area corresponding to a plane surface proximate to the protruding portion. For example and without limitation, Figs. 1-2 of the instant application illustrate that the light-blocking section 50 shades a defective orientation domain (D) formed in an area in the liquid crystal layer, the area (S) corresponding to a plane surface proximate to the protruding portion 15. This is advantageous, for example, in that a possible defective orientation domain caused by insufficient rubbing can be shaded and a decrease in display quality during a transmission mode may be reduced or prevented. Ozawa fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 9. Ozawa, in contrast to claim 9, has its alleged light blocking section 9 at a boundary area between transmissive and reflective areas but does not provide it to shade a defective orientation domain formed in an area corresponding to a plane surface proximate to a protruding portion.

Claim 10 requires *“an opening is provided in a color filter layer of the counter electrode substrate, the opening in the color filter layer being provided in the reflective region, and wherein the light-blocking section and/or a storage capacitor electrode covers the entire opening*

in the color filter layer in the reflective region.” For example and without limitation, Figs. 1, 2, 9 illustrate that an opening 13a is provided in a color filter layer 13 of the counter electrode substrate, the opening 13a in the color filter layer being provided in the reflective region, and wherein the light-blocking section and/or a storage capacitor electrode (50/29) covers the entire opening 13a in the color filter layer in the reflective region. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

Claim 17 requires that *“at least part of the light-blocking section is formed by a scanning line of the display, the scanning line being in electrically communication with at least one switching element of the display.”* For example and without limitation, Fig. 9 illustrates that at least part of the light-blocking section 50 is formed by a scanning line of the display. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 17.

Claim 12 requires that *“an opening is provided in a color filter layer of the counter electrode substrate, the opening in the color filter layer being provided in the reflective region, and wherein the light-blocking section covers the entire opening in the color filter layer in the reflective region.”* For example and without limitation, Figs. 1, 2, 9 illustrate that an opening 13a is provided in a color filter layer 13 of the counter electrode substrate, the opening 13a in the color filter layer being provided in the reflective region, and wherein the light-blocking section 50/29 covers the entire opening 13a in the color filter layer in the reflective region. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

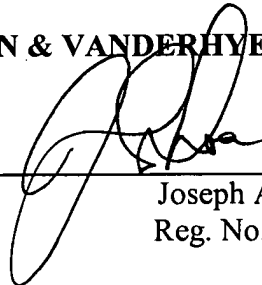
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

TANAKA et al
Appl. No. 10/806,255
January 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rhoa', is written over a horizontal line.

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100